

U R B A N D I S T R I C T O F W O O D B R I D G E .

ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
for
1948.

Claude H. Imrie. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health
to the Woodbridge U.D.C.

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To the Chairman

and Members of the Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my Annual Report for 1948 which has been prepared along the lines suggested by the Minister of Health.

1948 was, on the whole, a healthy year in spite of the prevalence of measles among the younger children.

The statistics show a Birth Rate which is rather lower and a Death Rate which is higher than the average for the Country. Undue significance must not be attached to this as, when dealing with small populations, even the smallest variations are often unduly accentuated.

With regard to the Sanitary state of the Town the obsolete system of sewage removal renders a satisfactory standard difficult to attain. It is hoped, however, that in the not too distant future we may see our Sewage Disposal scheme in action.

Housing still remains a problem, but new building is having its effect and it is hoped that this problem also may see solution within a reasonable time.

I would like to thank the Officials of this Council for their unfailing co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

17 Thoroughfare,
Woodbridge.

CLAUDE H. IMRIE.
Medical Officer of Health.

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Public Health Officers.

C.H. Imrie. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

G. Ogden. M.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

A. STATISTICS.

1. General Statistics.

Area of district in acres.	1097
Population (Registrar General's Mid Year Estimate).	6450
Number of Inhabited Houses.	1966
Rateable Value.	£32,675
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£132

2. Vital Statistics.

	Total.	Male.	Female.	Birth Rate per 1,000 population.
a. <u>Live Births.</u>				
Legitimate.	83	46	37	13.3
Illegitimate.	3	3	-	

Birth Rate for England and Wales. 17.9

	Total.	Male.	Female.	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.
b. <u>Still Births.</u>				
Legitimate.	3	2	1	0.46
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	

Still Birth Rate for England and Wales. 0.42

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total Live
and Still Births - Woodbridge. 33.7

c. Deaths (all ages and causes).

Total.	Male.	Female.	Rate per 1,000 population.
84	35	49	13.2

Rate for England and Wales. 10.8

d. Deaths from Maternal Causes. NIL.

e. Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births.	23.2
Rate for England and Wales.	34
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births.	11.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births.	11.6

f. Other Deaths.

Number of Deaths from Cancer. (all ages).	14
Number of Deaths from Measles. (all ages).	NIL.
Number of Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).	NIL.
Number of Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 1 year).	1

B. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

1. Hospitals.

The Hospitals, both Isolation and General, are now under the Administration of the Regional Hospital Board. Formerly the Local Authority was responsible for the maintenance of infectious patients in hospital, but since July 5th it has ceased to have this financial responsibility.

2. Ambulances.

The Ambulance Services are now co-ordinated under County Administration. The main change in Woodbridge is the replacement of a full-time by a part-time Service. Ambulances are available in Ipswich and Framlingham.

3. Laboratory.

The services of the Public Health Laboratory in Ipswich are available for all bacteriological investigations.

4. County Services.

The Services provided by the County before 5th July are, on the whole, continuing. The care of tuberculous patients has, however, become the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board.

C. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

1. Non-Tuberculous.

A total of 58 cases of non tuberculous infectious disease were notified during the year. This is four more than in the previous year.

It will be seen that nearly half of the cases were measles and that two-thirds were the respiratory infections whooping cough, measles and pneumonia. It is noteworthy that measles tends to recur in waves every second year. There were no cases of diphtheria.

Disease.	Age Group.									Total 1948.	Total 1947.
	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-		
Chicken Pox.				1	2		1			4	10
Scarlet Fever.			1							1	5
Pneumonia.			1	3		2		3	2	11	18
Jaundice.				6	3	1	2			12	11
Whooping Cough.	1	3	1							5	3
Measles.		3	6	7	3	2	1	1		23	3
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.						1				1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.						1				1	1
Poliomyelitis.											2

2. Immunisation.

Immunisation was carried out at the Welfare Centre and in the Schools.

Percentage of Pre-School Children immunised. 59.5

Percentage of all Children immunised. 62.1

Number receiving re-inforcing doses. 9

These figures show that the protection rate is fairly high but the figures could be improved. It is possible that the absence of severe diphtheria for a number of years is causing some parents to defer immunisation until the danger is more obvious.

3. Tuberculosis.

Number on Register at beginning of Year - 22
 Number on Register at end of Year - 24

New Cases.

Deaths.

Age Groups.	pulmonary.		non-pulmonary.		pulmonary.		non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-								
1-								
5-								
15-								
20-	1							
25-	1							
35-	1							
45-			1					
55-					1	1		
65-								

Tuberculosis Rate per 1,000 Population 3.72
 Tuberculosis Deaths per 1,000 Population 0.31
 Deaths per 1,000 Population England
 and Wales. 0.51

D. HOUSING.

Number of Inhabited Houses in District. 1,964.
 Average Number of Persons per House. 3.28

The Housing problem in Woodbridge has two distinct aspects. First, there is the shortage of houses, which is a relic of the War years and which is being gradually eliminated by a vigorous Building Programme.

The second aspect of the problem is the number, by no means inconsiderable, of houses in the district which are definitely of a poor standard. While every effort has been made to rehouse families who are inhabiting dwellings which are unfit, the proportions of the problems are such that only

a much higher rate of building will provide a solution within a reasonable time.

It will be noted that the average number of persons per house, namely 3.28, is rather high and would indicate that there is a tendency to overcrowding.

During 1948 the number of Houses completed and occupied in the District was 62 and at the end of the Year there were a further 19 under construction.

E. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The arrangements for Public Cleansing in Woodbridge are as described in my Report for 1947.

Negotiations over the projected Woodbridge and Melton Sewage Scheme are still making definite, if slow, progress and it is now only a matter of time until we have this sorely needed and long expected system of drainage.

Rodent Control. The Council employs two trained operatives whose Services are available to householders without charge. For Disinfestation of Business premises, however, a charge is made.

F. WATER.

The Main Water supply to the Town is provided by the Woodbridge Water Works. This utility was purchased by the Council on 1st January 1949.

In quantity the water is ample for the needs of the Town and should permit of extension. The quality of the water is good and analyses show a high degree of purity. A technical disadvantage, however, is the high degree of hardness which produces an extremely troublesome fur in all utensils and pipes. This problem is one of economic importance and I suggest that the possibilities of softening the water in bulk should be investigated.

2,226 yards of Mains extension was made during the year.

G. ACTION UNDER VARIOUS ACTS AND REGULATIONS.

Housing Act 1936.

Number of Statutory Notices.	-	1
Number of Informal Notices.	-	9
Number of repairs and improvements as a result of personal visits.	-	117

Food and Drugs Act 1938

Number of Inspections.	-	93
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Ice Cream Regulations.

Number of premises licensed for manufacture and sale.	-	1
Number of premises licensed for storage and sale only.	-	1

Milk and Dairies Orders 1926-1938

Supplementary licences issued for sale of Pasteurised Milk.	-	1
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Factories Act 1937.

Number of Factories using Power.	-	36
Number of Factories not using Power.	-	1
Number of Inspections.	-	6
Number of defects detected and remedied.	-	2
